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Man faces charges of illegally dumping hazardous waste

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Just a few hundred yards from an elementary school and within sight of a residential daycare center, authorities say Ray Skinner II sold prescription drugs and ran an illegal landfill that contained dozens of deteriorating boxes overflowing with hazardous waste.

Skinner was indicted last week by a Butler County grand jury on charges of illegal disposal of hazardous waste, illegal storage of hazardous waste and criminal endangering. He is also facing unrelated drug charges, including two counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs and permitting drug abuse, for allegedly selling the prescription drug Fentanyl from the property off Cincinnati-Dayton Road across the street from Union Elementary.

State and federal authorities say Skinner worked out a deal with the owners of a former Fairfield business to dump 131 tons of computer monitors and other electronic equipment in cardboard boxes on a small portion of his 85-acre property. The dumping allegedly occurred between April 2007 and June 2008, and resulted in lead contamination of surrounding soil, according to officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The three-day clean-up in June 2008, which cost approximately \$100,000, cleared the site of any contaminants, said Kathy Clayton, on-scene coordinator with the EPA.

The EPA was informed of the possible contamination in August 2007 when contractors testing the site as part of an earlier clean-up project on the family's property noticed boxes full of broken glass.

A packing slip on one of the containers featured the name "Tri State Computers," the successor of which was Fairfield-based Tri-E Technologies, according to an 2008 EPA memo.

The co-owners of Tri-E Technologies, John Grinstead and Larry Lough, were indicted on subsequent charges; Grinstead for failure to prepare a manifest, illegal transport of hazardous waste, illegal disposal of hazardous waste and criminal endangering; Lough for illegal transportation of hazardous waste and criminal endangering.

Skinner is due in Butler County Common Pleas Court today, May 28.

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